



Issue 2002-11, Released 11/26/02

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Thank You

to all the  
producers who  
participated in our  
recent surveys. The  
results you requested  
are in this issue.

*Agricultural Prices  
Nov Crop Production  
Cattle on Feed  
Livestock Slaughter  
Agricultural Labor*

### WHEAT PRICES REMAIN HIGHER; CALVES SLIP

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agricultural commodities sold during October was 100 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 3 points (3 percent) from last month and down 4 points (4 percent) from October 2001. The All Livestock Index was down 2 points (2 percent) from last month and down 6 points (6 percent) from last year. The price for lambs was higher than last month, but prices for cows, steers and heifers, calves, and sheep were lower. The All Crops Index was unchanged from last month, but up 13 points (11 percent) from October 2001. Prices for oats, feed barley, and wheat were higher than last month. Wheat and oats prices hit a six-year high for the second month for Wyoming. Prices for corn and dry beans were lower than last month, while prices for alfalfa hay and other hay were unchanged. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

The **Index of Prices Received for Livestock**, at 96, was down 2 points from September and 6 points lower than October 2001. Sheep prices were 80 cents lower than last month and \$2.40 lower than last year. Lamb prices

were \$3.30 higher than last month and \$26.80 higher than October 2001. Steer and heifer prices were down 10 cents from September and \$8.50 lower than last year. Cow prices were down \$1.90 from last month and \$7.90 lower than last October. Calf prices were down \$3.20 from last month and down \$15.00 from last year.

The **Index of Prices Received for Crops**, at 133, was unchanged from last month, but up 13 points from last year. Wheat, at \$4.52 per bushel, was up 18 cents from last month, \$1.90 higher than October 2001, and the highest monthly average price since June 1996. Alfalfa and other hay was unchanged from last month. The average corn price was down 5 cents from last month. Oats was up 2 cents from September, 55 cents higher than last year, and the highest monthly average price since July 1996. Feed barley was 6 cents higher than last month but 20 cents lower than last year. Dry beans were down 70 cents from September, but \$4.70 higher than last year.

**UNITED STATES:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October is 95, based on 1990-92=100, down 4 points (4 percent) from the September index. Lower prices for broilers, potatoes, corn, and soybeans more than offset increased prices for hogs, wheat, milk, and tobacco. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of wheat, milk, grapes, and tobacco more than offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and sorghum.

The current All Farm Products Index is 1 point (1 percent) above October, 2001. Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and peanuts are more than offset by higher prices for soybeans, corn, wheat, and sorghum.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, OCTOBER 2001, SEPTEMBER 2002, AND OCTOBER 15, 2002 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		OCT 2001	SEPT 2002	OCT 15 2002	OCT 2001	SEPT 2002	OCT 15 2002	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	42.40	36.40	34.50	37.60	34.90	33.70	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	87.60	79.20	79.10	70.10	68.00	67.80	—
Calves	100#	103.00	91.20	88.00	99.70	92.00	91.10	43
Sheep	100#	27.40	25.80	25.00	27.20	26.10	1/	—
Lambs	100#	56.20	79.70	83.00	51.40	76.10	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2.74	2.80	2.75	1.84	2.47	2.36	36
Oats	Bu.	1.65	2.18	2.20	1.64	1.80	1.89	47
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.30	2.04	2.10	1.86	2.26	2.26	—
All Wheat	Bu.	2.62	4.34	4.52	2.87	4.21	4.41	46
Dry Beans	100#	17.30	22.70	22.00	19.20	17.90	16.10	33
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	110.00	111.00	111.00	106.00	102.00	101.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	106.00	106.00	106.00	71.70	74.80	73.40	—
1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996. NOTE: Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.								
INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.								
1990-92 = 100		WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		OCT 2001	SEPT 2002	OCT 15 2002	OCT 2001	SEPT 2002	OCT 15 2002	
All Commodities		104	103	100	94	99	95	
All Crops		120	133	133	88	110	101	
All Livestock and Products		102	98	96	104	86	87	

## WYOMING SUGARBEET CROP SMALLEST SINCE 1984

The November 1 forecast for Wyoming's sugarbeet crop indicates production will fall 21 percent from last year due to both less acreage harvested and a lower average yield per acre. The crop would be the smallest since 1984.

**Sugarbeet** growers intend to harvest 36,500 acres this year, down 5,100 acres from last year. Yield is expected to average 18.5 tons per acre, down 1.0 ton from the October 1 forecast and down 2.1 tons from 2001. This would be the smallest average yield per acre since 1994. Total production in 2002 is expected to be 675,000 tons, down 21 percent from 2001, down 42 percent from 2000, and the smallest production since 654,000 tons were produced in 1984.

**United States: Corn for grain** production is forecast at 9.00 billion bushels, up slightly from last month but down 5 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 127.6 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from October but down 10.6 bushels from last year. If realized, production would be at the lowest level since 1995.

**Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 28.0 million tons, 2 percent below the October 1 forecast, but 9 percent above last year's production. Acres harvested and to be harvested in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States total 1.36 million acres. This is 1 percent below the October estimate, but 9 percent above 2001, when harvested acreage was reduced by the government's payment-in-kind diversion program. The yield is forecast at 20.7 tons per acre, 0.2 ton below October but the same as 2001.

**ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2001;  
FINAL SMALL GRAINS AND NOVEMBER 1 ROW CROP FORECASTS, 2002**

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		
	2001	2002	2001	Nov 2002	2001	Nov 2002	2001	Nov 2002	02/01 %
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		1,000				
WYOMING									
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	90	80	51	44	125	2/	6,375	2/	
Winter Wheat (bu) 3/	160	150	120	120	24	19	2,880	2,280	79%
Spring Wheat (bu) 3/	8	9	6	4	28	24	168	96	57%
Oats (bu) 3/	75	70	28	15	48	54	1,344	810	60%
Barley (bu) 3/	100	90	85	70	82	70	6,970	4,900	70%
Sugarbeets (tons)	48.5	40.0	41.6	36.5	20.6	18.5	857	675	79%
Dry Beans (cwt) 4/	24	30	21	27	21.4	21.0	450	567	126%
Alfalfa Hay (tons) 4/	—	—	580	580	2.20	2.20	1,276	1,276	100%
Other Hay (tons) 4/	—	—	550	590	1.10	1.10	605	649	107%
All Hay (tons) 4/	—	—	1,130	1,170	1.66	1.65	1,881	1,925	102%
UNITED STATES									
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	75,752	78,847	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.6	9,506,840	9,003,364	95%
Winter Wheat (bu) 3/	41,078	41,735	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	1,361,479	1,142,802	84%
Spring Wheat (bu)	15,609	15,714	14,549	13,463	35.2	29.3	512,008	394,189	77%
Oats (bu) 3/	4,403	5,005	1,905	2,098	61.4	56.8	117,024	119,132	102%
Barley (bu) 3/	4,967	5,073	4,289	4,135	58.2	54.9	249,420	226,873	91%
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,370.8	1,408.8	1,243.6	1,356.3	20.7	20.7	25,787	28,028	109%
Dry Beans (cwt) 4/	1,429.9	1,874.3	1,243.0	1,690.6	15.72	16.32	19,541	27,594	141%
Alfalfa Hay (tons) 4/	—	—	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	80,266	74,655	93%
Other Hay (tons) 4/	—	—	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.87	76,437	75,792	99%
All Hay (tons) 4/	—	—	63,511	64,709	2.47	2.32	156,703	150,447	96%

1/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.

2/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released January 10, 2003.

3/End of year estimate carried forward.

4/Forecast carried forward from October.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on October 1, 2002. Inventory was 6 percent below October 1, 2001 and 5 percent below October 1, 2000.

Placements in September totaled 2.19 million, 2 percent above 2001 but 19 percent below 2000. Placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 614,000, 600-699 pounds were 487,000, 700-799 pounds were 582,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 505,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.85 million, 1 percent above 2001 but 7 percent below 2000.

Cattle on feed October 1, 2002, in the historic 7 monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.09 million, down 5 percent from the previous year and 4 percent below October 1, 2000.

### CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2001-2002 1/

State	On Feed Sept 1, 2002	Place- ments Sept 2002	Market- ings Sept 2002	Other Disapp. Sept 2002	On Feed Oct 1, 2002	On Feed Oct 1, 2001
Thousand Head						
CO	1,000	255	220	5	1,030	1,060
KS	2,230	460	400	10	2,280	2,540
NE	1,850	450	335	5	1,960	1,950
TX	2,680	530	470	20	2,720	2,990
Oth Sts.						
	2,369	493	423	13	2,426	2,585
U.S.	10,129	2,188	1,848	53	10,416	11,125

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

## U.S. PORK PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH FOR SEPTEMBER

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during September 2002 totaled 400,000 pounds. This is down 50 percent from August 2002 but up 25 percent from September 2001. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Five hundred **cattle** were slaughtered, up 100 head from September 2001. Total liveweight was 579,000 pounds, up 21 percent from September 2001. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,170 pounds, 10 pounds lighter than last year.

Six hundred **hogs** and **pigs** were processed, 200 hundred more than last year. Total liveweight, at 152,000 pounds, was up 81 percent from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 254 pounds, up 23 pounds from September 2001.

Two hundred **sheep** and **lambs** were processed totaling 22,000 pounds liveweight. Average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 137 pounds, up 10 pounds from a year earlier.

January - September red meat production was 4.3 million pounds, up 19 percent from last year.

**UNITED STATES:** Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.87 billion pounds in September, up 6 percent from the 3.67 billion pounds produced in September 2001.

**Beef production**, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, up 2 percent from September 2001. The average liveweight was 1,264 pounds, up 24 pounds from September a year ago.

**Pork production** totaled 1.64 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.51 million head, 9 percent above September 2001. The average liveweight was 260 pounds, down 2 pounds from September a year ago.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 17.6 million pounds, was up 8 percent from September 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 276,200 head, 13 percent above last year. The average liveweight was 128 pounds, down 7 pounds from September a year ago.

January - September red meat production was 35.0 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, SEPTEMBER 2001 AND 2002, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Sept 2001	Sept 2002	Sept 2001	Sept 2002	% 02/01	Sept 2001	Sept 2002	Sept 2001	Sept 2002	% 02/01
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
<b>Cattle</b>	400	500	478	579	121	2,808,100	2,864,800	3,482,194	3,619,859	104
<b>Hogs</b>	400	600	84	152	181	7,812,400	8,505,800	2,045,995	2,215,646	108
<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b>	100	200	18	22	122	244,300	276,200	32,999	35,337	107

## MORE AG WORKERS IN THE REGION

The tri-state hired labor force on farms and ranches during the week October 6-12, 2002 was up 11 percent from a year ago. During this period, 30,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. The number of hired workers a year earlier was 27,000. Of the 30,000 hired workers, 21,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 9,000 were expected to work 149 days or less compared with 20,000 and 7,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 45.1 compared with 42.4 last October.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$8.13 per hour, up 41 cents (5 percent) from last year and up 51 cents (7 percent) from July 2002.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 1.19 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 6-12, 2002, down 5 percent from a year ago. There were 935,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 250,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.93 per hour during the October 2002 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.7 hours a year ago.

**Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker,  
Regions and U.S., October 6-12, 2002 1/**

Region		Hired Workers			
		Type of Worker			
		Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
		Dollars per hour			
Mntn I	2/	7.84	7.95	7.89	8.13
Mntn II	3/	8.31	8.79	8.50	8.79
No Plns	4/	9.01	9.03	9.02	9.32
U.S.	5/	8.30	8.44	8.33	8.93

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers  
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming  
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North & South Dakota  
5/ Excludes Alaska

## WYOMING ANNUAL AVERAGE AG WAGE RATE UP 5 PERCENT

The annual average wage rate for all hired labor on Wyoming farms and ranches in 2002 was \$7.55 per hour. The average wage was up 5 percent from the 2001 average of \$7.20 per hour. The annual average rate is based on data collected during four surveys conducted in January, April, July, and October. The annual average wage rate for field workers was \$7.05 in 2002, compared with \$6.57 in 2001. The combined wage rate for field and livestock workers was \$6.96 in 2002, up from \$6.57 in 2001.

For the tri-state region (**Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho) the annual average wage rate was \$7.96 per hour in 2002, up 17 cents (2 percent) from 2001. Field workers were paid an average of \$7.53 and the combined field and livestock wage was \$7.70 per hour in 2002. This compares with \$7.13 and \$7.43 for 2001. There were an average of 26,500 hired workers during 2002, compared with 25,800 for 2001. The average number of hours worked by all hired labor in 2002 was 43.6 hours per week compared with 44.5 hours per week a year earlier.

**UNITED STATES:** The 2002 annual average number of hired workers for the Nation was 884,500 workers, up 1 percent from 2001. The annual average number of hours worked during the week was 39.8 for 2002 and 39.9 for 2001. The 2002 U.S. annual average wage rate for hired workers was \$8.80 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2001 average of \$8.45. The Field and Livestock worker combined annual average wage rate was \$8.17, up 4 percent from last year's average of \$7.86. Field workers alone averaged \$8.11 per hour, up from \$7.78 a year earlier.

**Annual Farm Wage Rates, All Hired Workers,  
Selected States and U.S., 1/ 2/**

State	All Hired Workers	
	2001	2002
	Dollars per hour	
WY	7.20	7.55
CO	8.22	8.57
ID	7.95	8.05
MT	7.62	7.95
NE	8.51	8.62
SD	8.21	8.66
UT	8.51	9.14
U.S.	8.45	8.80

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers

2/ Annual average rate is weighted average of rates for each survey week in January, April, July, and October.

3/ Excludes Alaska.